

CITY OF SUNNYVALE

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Office of the City Manager

November 4, 2016

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Jim Griffith
Councilmember

Pat Meyering
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Councilmember

Jim Davis
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Larry Klein
Councilmember

The Honorable Joe Simitian
Chair, Select Committee for South Bay Arrivals
70 West Hedding Street, 10th Floor
San Jose, CA 95110

Dear Chairman Simitian and Select Committee Members:

On behalf of the City of Sunnyvale, thank you and the Select Committee for providing this opportunity to provide comments on the draft Report of the Select Committee on South Bay Arrivals (Report). The City also appreciates the efforts of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and specifically of Glen Martin, the Regional Administrator for the Western-Pacific Region, in working with the Select Committee and the communities that it represents.

The City has a long-standing policy to preserve and enhance the quality of neighborhoods by maintaining or reducing the levels of noise generated by transportation facilities, including airports. The City is committed to advocating a regional, balanced solution that would help mitigate disproportionate noise over communities that don't have airports, such as Sunnyvale.

Specifically, the City of Sunnyvale supports recommendations and/or solutions that promote the following general provisions:

1. Maintaining a high level of safety for aircraft arriving and departing airports in the Bay Area.
2. Ensuring a robust community and agency engagement process prior to the implementation of any recommended solutions.
3. Monitoring and documentation of noise exposure by the FAA before and after feasible solutions are implemented.
4. Accounting for, and working towards alleviating, the noise impact on the ground of flights overhead.
 - a. Increasing the minimum altitudes of flights for entry into the final approach of area airports including SFO, SJC and OAK.
 - b. Implementation of ongoing compliance monitoring for any set of solutions implemented by the FAA.
5. Establishment of a single, regional point of contact (possibly the FAA) where residents can submit their airplane noise concerns.

With these general provisions in mind, the City of Sunnyvale, has the following comments regarding particular proposed recommendations and/or solutions:

1. **1.2 Feasibility Group 2, Transition the SERFR Standard Terminal Arrival Route (STAR) Back to the BSR Ground Track prior to EPICK):** similar to our neighboring City of Mountain View, the City of Sunnyvale believes this recommendation is worthy of serious consideration by the Select Committee and the FAA.
2. **1.6 Feasibility Group 6, Improve aircraft Set Up and Sequencing Between Facilities:** the City is supportive of assigning flow management actions (vectoring, sequencing, spacing) well in advance of final approach to reduce the percentage of vectored or turned aircraft and related noise exposure over residential neighborhoods.
3. **2.5 MENLO Waypoint, Recommendation No. 2:** Similar to our neighboring City of Mountain View, the City of Sunnyvale believes this recommendation appears to shift noise and would disproportionately and negatively impact our communities.
4. **2.7 Increase the Altitude and Profile of Descents into SFO:** the City of Sunnyvale would support this effort to reduce noise exposure on the ground.
5. **2.8 Increase All Altitudes:** the City is supportive of this recommendation to increase the altitude for all flights in to and out of SFO, while ensuring the safety of the aircraft, and reducing the noise impact at ground level.
6. **2.9 Aircraft Vectoring:** the City supports the recommendation to identify locations that have the most compatible land uses for vectoring, such as uninhabited areas like over the Pacific Ocean or the Bay, and to vector SFO arrivals in those locations to reduce noise exposure experienced on the ground. Please note, however, that the City would encourage that specific route recommendations be sensitive to any communities, like Sunnyvale, that lie under perceived 'gateways' to the bay.
7. **2.12 San Jose International Airport Reverse Flow: Aircraft Arrivals:** the City commends the Select Committee for not endorsing a proposed solution that would simply shift noise pollution from one community to another – particularly because of the lack of representation on the Select Committee by the proposed 'receiving' community. Similar to the Report, however, the City does encourage the FAA to examine potential solutions to the noise pollution over Sunnyvale and Mountain View experienced during South/Reverse Flow.

Sunnyvale lies in the landing patterns of Moffett Federal Airfield, San Francisco International, Oakland International, and San Jose International airports. In addition, our community experiences flight operations overhead from smaller airports such as Palo Alto and San Carlos. Over the last several years, Sunnyvale residents have experienced an increasing and disproportionate impact to our neighborhoods. Any recommendation by the Select Committee which would result in sending flights above a

community – whether proposed for immediate, short-term or long-term implementation, should take into consideration the comprehensive noise burden assumed by that community, including commercial, general aviation and military flight operations.

Regarding the Select Committee **Report Section 3: Longer –Term Issues**, some of the presented issues are of mutual interest to the City. Specifically, the City encourages a continued dialogue on the following:


1. **3.1 Need for an Ongoing Venue to Address Aircraft Noise Mitigation**, *Recommendation 1*: that a permanent entity be established to address issues of aircraft noise throughout the region ("region" yet to be defined). The City would urge inclusion of Congressional District 17, the governing bodies or those cities that are directly impacted by airplane noise, and perhaps, participation from groups such as the Airport Land Use Commission.
2. **3.2 Restricted/Special Use Airspace**: the Select Committee draft recommendation is that Members of Congress review the Special Use Airspace (SUA) in our area with an eye towards better balancing special use restrictions and civilian aviation needs, particularly in the congested San Francisco Bay Area airspace. The City would urge inclusion of Congressional District 17 in any review of proposals with an impact on Moffett Federal Airfield.
3. **3.2 Noise Measurement**: the City would support this recommendation to require the FAA to adopt supplemental metrics for aircraft noise that characterize the true impact experienced by people on the ground.

Regarding the Select Committee **Report Section 4: Process Issues**, some of the presented issues are of mutual interest to the City. Specifically, the City encourages a continued dialogue on the following:

1. **4.1 Who Makes Recommendations to Whom**: the City is supportive that, should the FAA be charged with the responsibility for identifying and proposing solutions to mitigate noise concerns, that the communities and governing bodies of those cities directly impacted by airplane noise be engaged in the process from the start. The City's application of the term 'directly impacted' would include cities without an active airport in their boundaries – such as Sunnyvale, which is impacted by neighboring cities' airports.
2. **4.2 Need for Before/After Noise Monitoring**: the City supports this draft recommendation as it would ensure a documented and verified assessment of noise impact on affected communities.
3. **4.3 Ensure Compliance**: the City supports this draft recommendation since it would help to ensure that the FAA takes appropriate steps to measure and guarantee ongoing compliance.

Thank you for your consideration of our position. The City looks forward to working with you, the Select Committee, and the FAA on a regional solution to mitigate airplane noise. Your leadership and engagement on this critical issue is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glenn K. Hendricks".

Glenn Hendricks
Mayor

cc: The Honorable Mike Honda, Congressional District 17
City Council
City Manager
Glen Martin, Federal Aviation Administration